

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION **MEETING MINUTES**

November 14 & 15, 2002
Montana Higher Education Complex
Meeting Room
2500 Broadway
Helena, MT 59620

Chairperson Dr. Kirk Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 15, 2002.

Board members present were: Kirk Miller, Chair; Diane Fladmo, Vice Chair; Randy Morris, Storrs Bishop, John Fuller, Patty Myers, Joyce Silverthorne, Derek Duncan, Student Representative, and Richard Crofts, Commissioner of Higher Education. Linda McCulloch, Superintendent of the Office of Public Instruction was absent on November 14, but attended on November 15. Staff present were: Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary; Peter Donovan, CSPAC Administrative Officer; and Suzan Hopkins, BPE Administrative Assistant. The following people were registered on the meeting roster: George Blakeslee, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA, Spencer Sartorius, Office of Public Instruction (OPI), Carol Gneckow, OPI, Nancy Coopersmith, OPI, Margaret Bowles, OPI, Kris Goss, Governor's Office, Al McMilin, OPI, Linda Vrooman-Peterson, OPI, Patricia Chlouber, U.S. Department of Education, Denver, CO, Darrell Rud, School Administrators of Montana, Judy Snow, OPI, Ellen Swaney, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, BJ Granbery, OPI, Lynette Zuroff, Rick Chiotti, OPI, Sharon Wagner, MWIEA, Linda Brandon-Kyos, OPI, Kimberly Gardner, Alternative Youth Adventures, Dave Puyear, MREA; and Jay Erdie, Rocky Mountain College.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Myers led the board and members of the audience in the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Hopkins conducted the Roll Call. Dr. Miller read the Statement of Public Participation and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dr. Miller also recognized Spencer Sartorius, who has taken over as Acting Deputy Superintendent, in place of recently retired Bill Cooper, from the Office of Public Instruction. He also recognized Margaret Bowles in her new role in the Licensure Office at the Office of Public Instruction. Dr. Miller proceeded to note some revisions in the agenda, which included the taking of action on Item #3 (Chapter 57 Rule Revisions); Item #6 (Governor's Office Report) was moved until 4:00 in the afternoon; Item #8 (Informal Teacher/Student Survey Report) was deleted; Item #9 (Emergency Authorization Report) was to be presented by Margaret Bowles only; Item #12 was misprinted on the agenda, it should read Pat Chlouber, Secretary's Regional Representative for Region VIII, Overview of NCLB; Item #23 (Possible 5-Year Plan Revision) was to be presented by Linda McCulloch (not Dr. Linda Peterson) and Dr. Kirk Miller; Item #31 (Legal Affairs) was to be presented by Margaret Bowles and Linda Brandon-Kyos, and not Jeff Weldon.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to accept the revised agenda for the November 14 & 15, 2002 meeting. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Miller presented the consent agenda, which included financial reports as well as the minutes from the September 2002 board meeting. Mr. Bishop discussed the financial audit, which was initiated in July 2002. The Board of Public Education received a clean bill of health from the Legislative Audit Division. None of the program expansion initiatives were approved. Mr. Meloy elaborated on the definition of how the budget will be affected over the next few years. The board will receive (on a formula consistent with other agencies) less money in both years of the biennium than we actually spent last year. The board will receive \$5,988 less in 2004 than we spent in 2001, and \$8,410 less in 2005 than we spent in 2002. Mr. Meloy suggested that it would be beneficial to figure out a way to better utilize the research fund money.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to approve the consent agenda, which includes the minutes from the September 12 & 13, 2002 board meeting. Ms. Silverthorne seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

Item 1 Chairperson's Report

Dr. Miller gave the board some background information on some of the issues he has been working on. The Executive Committee, the Chair of the Finance Committee, and Amy Carlson, attended a meeting with the Budget Director, Charles Swysgood, to discuss the initial cuts to be made to the Board of Public Education's budget, that have since been revised. The Executive Committee met at the Lieutenant Governor's Office to talk with a representative of the "Teacher's of Tomorrow" project at Western Governor's University. This topic will be brought to the board at a later date as a discussion item. Dr. Miller expressed remorse on behalf of the board in regards to the passing of Heidi Redman, a previous employee of the Board of Public Education and a fond friend to many.

Ms. Fladmo reported on the status of the GATES Technology Grant. The GATES grant has funded a few opportunity scholarships for administrators in the areas of data and assessment, also have provided funds in the use of Excel. This year's grants are targeted toward administrators.

Ms. Fladmo gave a brief update on the NASBE Conference Report. Mr. Morris was elected to serve on the Steering committee of the Healthy Schools Network.

Mr. Morris gave an update on a recent conference for the Healthy Schools Network, held on October 9, 2002, in San Diego, in conjunction with the Healthy Schools Network. This network is funded through a grant by the Center for Disease Control. Its purpose is to identify and promote issues that have a positive impact on youth in relation to new fitness and ready-to-learn concepts. There are nine states that participate in this network around the country. Some of the actions that occur are to review what has been accomplished with each state in terms of goals and objectives that have been previously set. What was decided this year amongst the team was to expand the committee to include other constituents (school administrators, Montana Rural Education Association, Higher Education, The Association of Health and Physical Education Teachers, and representatives of Pediatrics). This inclusion will help to identify more issues that should be looked at, and will assist in making positive changes in regards to health.

Item 2 Executive Secretary Report

Mr. Meloy presented a review of the meeting with the Budget Director, regarding the 04-05 budget. Some of the activities that Mr. Meloy participated in since the last board meeting include:

- ❖ Attending the CSPAC meeting in Butte with Pete Donovan and Tana Haxton, where the

arrangements for the joint meeting with the Board were finalized. This meeting will be held on March 13, 2003.

- ❖ Attended the Administrator's mentorship meeting in Bozeman.
- ❖ Staffed the American Indian Dropout hearing in November.
- ❖ Presented at the MEA-MFT conference in Missoula.
- ❖ Presided over Chapter 57 hearing in Helena.
- ❖ Met with Linda McCulloch on our PR initiative.
- ❖ Attended the Ed Forum meeting on November 1, 2002
- ❖ Met with Board Chair and Representative Fisher regarding GOP legislation.
- ❖ Attended the 4 Rivers Administrative meeting in Dillon.

Mr. Meloy gave an overview of the MACIE summary and proposed recommendations, which he prepared for the board members. These materials were included in each board member's packet.

Item 3 CSPAC Report

Mr. Donovan presented the timeline on Teacher Certification Rules in order to refresh the board as to how CSPAC is progressing. He also presented the comments and e-mails that were received after the hearing (total of 13 comments). Mr. Donovan then met with Margaret Bowles and Bev Marlow to review the comments, and generate possible responses for the board to consider. A lengthy discussion regarding the items and the responses ensued.

MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to approve adoption of amendments to Chapter 55 and Chapter 57 as proposed. Ms. Silverthorne seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Donovan also presented both the CSPAC newsletter and brochure. The next item discussed was the CSPAC Assessment Study Group. This item was deferred to Ms. Fladmo, who talked about the difference between the Assessment Advisory Committee and the Assessment Study. She then proceeded to give an update on what progress has been made with the study. She hopes to begin the Assessment Study in January 2003. Ms. Fladmo reviewed the questions, which the study will address.

Item 4 State Superintendent Report

Assistant Superintendent Nancy Coopersmith presented in absence of State Superintendent Linda McCulloch. Ms. Coopersmith reminded everyone of the fall Yellow School Bus Tour. Two tours have been completed with one more scheduled for December 2002. The tour is an informal way for Office of Public Instruction staff to listen and learn about the current concerns of educators across Montana. She also passed on the news of the retirement of Deputy Superintendent Bill Cooper as of January 3, 2003. Mr. Cooper's last day was November 1, 2002. Spencer Sartorius will serve as Acting Deputy Superintendent for the remainder of the 2002-2003 fiscal year.

Noteworthy information passed on by Ms. Coopersmith also included details on how Superintendent McCulloch passed out three stipends to Montana teachers at the MEA-MFT Educator's Conference in Missoula. The three teachers were Valerie Bebee, LaMotte Elementary; Kristy Martin Hutchinson, Wise River Elementary; and Cheri Neuman Dale, Billings Public Schools. Also, the U.S. Department of Education has awarded the Office of Public Instruction with a grant for nearly \$1 million to fund the MT American Indian Dropout Prevention Project. Ms. McCulloch also presented the 2002 Milken Family National Educator Award to two Montana educators on October 8, 2002. They were Katherine (Kitty) Logan, principal and teacher at Swan Valley School; and Julie Cajune, Indian Education Director at Ronan Public Schools.

Ms. Coopersmith recognized the new Educator Licensure (Certification) Program Manager, Margaret Bowles.

Item 5 Commissioner of Higher Education Report

Dr. Dick Crofts presented an overview of three pieces of information that he had previously circulated to the board members via e-mail. The first item was a presentation at the Montana State University Town meeting. In this document, the Commissioner stressed three potential elements of the vision for Montana State University and the university system. They included outreach (providing academic programs and services to all Montanans at the time and place they need them), transparency (elimination of barriers so that students can conveniently discover and use all of the educational resources that are available to them), and affordability and cost control. The second item was the Montana University Fact Sheet, which is a document used to communicate to the public and policy makers various details. The third document was the Montana University System Message, which will be beneficial to the people who will be representing the University System to legislators and others.

Item 7 Student Representative Report

Derek Duncan reported on the MASC (Montana Association of Student Councils) annual convention, and the Leadership Forum he attended. The issues that were raised at these conferences included funding, accreditation, testing, and college admissions. Mr. Duncan requested a discussion item for next board meeting to include considering student representative two-year terms and an evaluation of the selection process.

Item 8 Informal Teacher/Student Survey Report

Deleted

Item 9 Emergency Authorization Report

Ms. Margaret Bowles presented a summary of the emergency authorization report. She reported that Montana law establishes that superintendents who have made a good faith effort to put credentialed teachers in a classroom may request the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to put someone who is not certified in a classroom under emergency authorization employment. She provided a list of EAEs (Emergency Authorization of Employment) granted since the 1997-98 school year. She also explained the criteria for which an emergency authorization of employment can be granted.

Item 10 Renewal Unit Provider Report

Ms. Nancy Coopersmith welcomed Ms. Carol Gneckow, Program Officer from the Office of Public Instruction, whose presentation included the following: definition of Renewal Activities, time equivalents, restriction and conditions, definition of providers, responsibilities of approved providers, annual reporting requirements, the list of approved providers for 2002-2003, and statistical information about renewal unit activities during the 2001-02 school year.

Item 11 NASBE Study Group on E-Learning

Ms. Silverthorne reviewed the minutes of the E-Learning Committee meeting, held on October 7, 2002, which included an examination of the Accreditation Rule 10.55.907, regarding distance learning. It was also brought to the attention of the board that Mr. Randy Morris and Ms. Patty Myers should be added to the committee as members.

MOTION: Ms. Silverthorne moved to approve the minutes of the E-Learning Committee meeting, held on October 7, 2002. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bishop and unanimously carried.

- ❖ Dr. Kirk Miller welcomed and recognized Darrell Rud, in the audience, as the new Executive Director of the School Administrators of Montana.

Item 12 Pat Chlouber, Secretary's Regional Representative for Region VIII-Overview of NCLB

Ms. Pat Chlouber, after giving a brief summation of her credentials, presented an overview of "No Child Left Behind", via a PowerPoint presentation. This presentation was designed to show the intent of the legislation with regards to the implementation of NCLB and how Montana has progressed.

Item 13 No Child Left Behind Update

Nancy Coopersmith presented highlights of the U.S. Department of Education's new publication, No Child Left Behind: A Desktop Reference 2002, which is a mini directory of programs and contact persons with responsibilities for administration of programs included in the act, and information presented at a regional conference conducted by the U.S. Department of Education in Denver, Colorado, October 23-25, 2002, concerning the law. NCLB provides funding for each state to hire a coordinator for the NAEP (National Assessment of Education Progress). She also discussed how the \$3.7 million for assessment would be disbursed. The criterion referenced test costs over \$2 million per year for the contract. They also hope to hire additional staff at the Office of Public Instruction to assist with the aggregation and disaggregation of data. She invited Spencer Sartorius to join her to discuss persistently dangerous schools. Montana was the first state to submit a definition of persistently dangerous schools, and our definition is currently being used as a model for several other states. The definition is based on school size, with the criteria being the number of gun-free schools incidents, and whether or not the school had a gun-free schools incident, whether or not the school district had a felony violent offense, and the number of suspensions and expulsions for violent activities, with different numbers based on the size of the school.

Ms. Coopersmith reported to the board on the Reading Excellence Grant awarded to Montana. Montana is eligible to apply for \$3.3 million in the Reading First fund and the application process has begun.

At the request of Dr. Miller, Ms. Coopersmith clarified the definition of "highly qualified teachers" and "paraprofessionals". The Office of Public Instruction had to submit to the Department of Education a definition of a highly qualified teacher. The definition states, "***A highly qualified teacher is a teacher who is fully certified and endorsed in the area in which he or she teaches.***" The department approved this definition. With regards to the paraprofessional, there are certain requirements that must be met. A school district receiving Title I funds could not use those funds to hire a paraprofessional who did not have one of the following: two years of postsecondary education, an associate's degree, or a determination at the local level of competency in reading and math classes.

Item 14 No Child Left Behind Advisory Panel

Dr. Miller referenced the minutes from the Executive Committee meetings held on September 19 and October 1, 2002. The first meeting outlined a means for the board to assist the Office of Public Instruction with the implementation of NCLB. The panel would be used as an informational group that would be a network put in place to be utilized by the Office of Public Instruction to send messages to the field or to collect input.

Dr. Miller reviewed to the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting on October 1, 2002. The main topic of discussion was the response to the different funding issues that had been in the media. A meeting was held with Representative Fisher to talk about some of his views and ideas.

MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2002 Executive Committee meeting. Ms. Silverthorne seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

MOTION: Ms. Fladmo moved to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2002 Executive Committee meeting. Ms. Myers seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

Item 15 ACT/SAT Presentation

Judy Snow presented a summary of the results from the 2002 ACT and SAT scores. Her statistics included the following points of interest:

- Participation rate for the ACT continues to be substantially higher than SAT (56% and 23%)
- Percentage of Montana female test takers is higher than the percentage of Montana male test takers
 - ACT: 54.9% and 44.4%
 - SAT: 55.8% and 44.2%
- A higher percentage of Montana Native American test takers take the ACT than the SAT
 - ACT: 5% of total number of Montana test takers
 - SAT: 1.6% of total number of Montana test takers
- Montana scores for both the ACT and the SAT are higher than the national scores
- The composite 2002 Montana score for the ACT is the same as in 2001. The national score decreased by .2. The total 2002 SAT for Montana students is three points lower than in 2002, while the 2002 national score remains the same as in 2001.
- In both the ACT and the SAT, the percentage of students taking a core curriculum declined in 2002.
- Career choices for the ACT show Education tied with Business and Management for number three.

Websites:

ACT: <http://www.act.org/news/data.html>

SAT: http://www.collegeboard.com/aboutnews_info/cbsenior/yr2002/html/2002reports.html

Item 16 Update on Admissions Proficiencies

Ms. Jan Clinard presented newsletters from Proficiency Admissions. The newsletters address the results of the 2002 field test. One newsletter contains the general scores, which shows that the scores are higher for this year. It also contains information from all of the survey instruments that were used. She also presented a supplement she prepared for the Montana Wyoming Indian Education Association meeting.

The second newsletter compares the correlations of what students plan to do after high school with their test scores. One point of interest that Ms. Clinard reported as a result of the findings was that students who utilized the writing process when given their assignments in English class scored better on a time-prompted piece of writing.

This fall 5,000 math student proficiency manuals were printed. They were circulated to the math departments and school counselors.

Item 17 Five-year Strategic Plan/Update

Ms. Fladmo reviewed the Draft Goals for the five-year strategic plan compiled from the Montana State Board retreat held in July 2002. Dr. Miller also presented a document that addressed Goal 4.3 (ensure effective and efficient use of current and future resources supporting public education). After an extensive amount of discussion by the board members, agreement was made to wait before proceeding with the implementation of the Position Paper presented by Dr. Miller. (Further discussion on this topic was held after Item #33, BPE Positioning Strategy.)

Item 6 Governor's Office Report

Lieutenant Governor Karl Ohs presented an update on the budget issue. The Governor's budget was released on Friday, November 15, 2002, from the Governor's Office. Lieutenant Governor Ohs related that there has been much activity in the last several months in the Governor's Office related to education in Montana, and that the most informative meetings were with superintendents in Fort Benton, Malta and Havre. "While discussing a wide variety of issues from a perspective that only an educator can offer, Bob Anderson, Kirk Miller and Bill Parker, were not only great hosts, but effective advocates for key issues facing Montana education". At the invitation of Superintendent McCulloch, Kris Goss joined her and Deputy Superintendent Bill Cooper in New Mexico for Western Regional Pathways to College Roundtable to focus on inner city lower income children. Lieutenant Ohs reported that the Governor's Office would continue to assist the SAELP consortium. He also related that the Governor's Office attended the MEA-MFT meetings in Missoula and the MCEL in Billings. Mr. Kris Goss attended MASC, at the invitation of Derek Duncan, student representative. At the invitation of Superintendent Steve Gettel, Ms. Amy Carlson, Mr. Kris Goss and Lt. Governor Ohs, visited the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. Kris Goss also participated in the third Yellow School Bus Tour, and attended the MACIE and MWIEA Dropout Hearing.

Dr. Miller also announced that the board would meet with Lieutenant Governor Karl Ohs, at his request, to sit down and discuss education wide issues, at 5:30 on Thursday, November 14, 2002.

Item 18 Variance Data Review

Mr. Al McMilin and Dr. Linda Peterson presented an update of the current year's variances by district size and school name in a follow-up to the September board meeting's report on the number of approved notices of deferrals and alternative standard requests.

Item 19 Comprehensive Education Plan: Training, Guidelines, Regional Technical Assistance

Dr. Linda Peterson, Mr. Al McMilin and Ms. Chris Provance provided the board with an update of the Annual Data Collection and Comprehensive Education Plan Training, guidelines to evaluate and monitor District Comprehensive Education Plans, and the Comprehensive Education Plan Regional Technical Assistance.

In regards to the requirements for the five-year comprehensive education plan (5YCEP), on May 1, 2003, the completed five-year comprehensive education plan or the five-year comprehensive education plan progress report is due to the OPI. In October 2003, Annual Data Collection will include a required completed 5YCEP, if not already submitted.

Item 20 University of Great Falls Master's Degree of Science in School Psychology: Provisional Program Approval Initial Presentation

Dr. Linda Peterson and Ms. Deborah Kottel, Dean of Graduate Studies from the University of Great Falls presented a request for a provisional program approval from the University of Great Falls for a Master's of Science Degree in School Psychology. A list of courses, as well as the number of credits these courses would account for, was included in the board member's packets. This item was presented as an informational item and will be presented again at the January 2003 board meeting.

Item 21 Alternative Youth Adventures/Jefferson High School

Ms. Kim Gardiner, Administrator and Dr. George Linthicum presented an overview of the program and services offered at their facility in Boulder, Montana. This program was started in 1995 under the name of Aspen Youth Alternatives. Alternative Youth Adventures (AYA) initially worked in collaboration with the state of Montana as a primary diversion program for youth at risk for ending up in correctional facilities or secure out-of-home placements. Currently, AYA not

only serves as a primary diversion approach for youth at risk for referral into the secure corrections arena, but also to youth and their families who are experiencing difficulty managing their behavior and emotional well-being in the community. They work directly with the Department of Public Health and Human Services, the Department of Child and Family Services, the Supreme Court and Department of Corrections for referrals through the Youth Courts, the Addictive and Mental Disorders Division, the Jefferson High School and the Youth Court Services in Boulder, and the United States Forest Service.

The board adjourned at 9:15 a.m. to attend the Budget Meeting at the Governor's Office and reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

❖ *Sharon Wagner, Secretary of MWIEA, thanked the Board for the support at the Dropout Hearing held at the Jorgenson's on November 7, 2002. Parents, teachers, superintendents of schools, tribal leaders, state legislators, and community organizations provided testimony. Twenty-eight people gave testimony, presided over by Norma Bixby, Chairperson of MACIE. Ms. Wagner also passed out the MWIEA Call to Conference meeting agenda, to be held from March 29-April 1, 2003 at the West Coast Colonial Hotel, in Helena, MT.*

Item 22 Future Directions for NRT

Ms. Fladmo deferred this item to Ms. Judy Snow, State Assessment Director; to present what direction the NRT (Norm-Referenced Test) is taking. Ms. Snow, along with Nancy Coopersmith and BJ Granbery, presented the pros and cons of the NRT. The Board of Public Education Assessment Advisory Committee has advised continued pursuit of the NRT as it provides longitudinal data. They also stated that no credible assessment system would be without a norm-referenced test. It is also beneficial because every district and school in the state is using the same test, which provides statewide data. Prices for 2004 (ballpark figures) would be \$213,000, and \$224,000 for 2005. The purpose for continuing with the NRT would be to help make policy decisions at the state level. It was suggested by Ms. Coopersmith to review Rule 10.55.603, as the NRT is mentioned in this rule.

Item 23 Possible Five-Year Plan Revision

Dr. Kirk Miller and Ms. Nancy Coopersmith, who presented in place of Linda McCulloch, gave some background on this item. They agreed that there is much anxiety about the May 1, 2003 deadline for the five-year comprehensive education plan. In looking at the scarcity of resources including time, funding, and staffing, Superintendent McCulloch wishes to bring forth an idea to introduce some flexibility as to how OPI will implement the rule. She proposes, that on May 1, 2003, they accept the plans from those districts that have completed their five-year education plan. In addition, on May 1, if those plans are not completely finished, OPI will accept a progress report.

Item 24 Board Member Appearances

Board member appearances included the following:

Joyce Silverthorne:

MACIE Assessment (10/16/02)
MEA-MFT Assessment (10/17/02)
NCLB Indian Education (10/22/02)
NIEA (11/5/02)
Dropout Hearing (11/7/02)
NCSS (11/22/02)

Patty Myers:

SAELP in Bozeman (9/24/02)
MEA-MFT Educator Conf. (10/17-10/18/02)
MSUN-NCATE visitation (10/26 -10/30/02)

Storrs Bishop:

Executive Committee re: Promotion
Consultant (early October 2002)
Executive Committee (Funding Cuts-
BPE) (early October 2002)

John Fuller:

NEA Conference on Nat'l Teacher
Accreditation (10/24-10/27/02)

Diane Fladmo:

SAELP (9/24/02)
OPI 5-Year Plan Training (10/9/02)
Pathways Roundtable (10/9/02)
NASBE (10/9-10/10/02)
MCEL Presentation (10/17/02)
5-Year Plan & GATES Training (11/12-11/13/02)
MSBA Legislative Forum (11/12/02)

Derek Duncan:

MASC State Convention (10/20-10/23/02)
Governor's Summit on Tobacco Prevention
(10/14/02)
Steering Committee Conference Call

Randy Morris:

SAELP (9/24/02)
MCEL (10/14-10/17/02)
Healthy Schools Network (10/9-10/10/02)
MSBA Legislative Forum (11/21/02)

Item 25 Proposed Legislation for 2003 Session

Senate Bill 231 regarding distance learning did not pass, and after much discussion and comment by various board members, it was decided to submit it once again.

Mr. Meloy proposed crafting language in a bill that would provide a more comprehensive use of the board's special revenue, which are created by license fees from teachers. Mr. Meloy promised to have the language drafted before the next board meeting in January.

Item 26 Board of Education Committee Descriptions

It was proposed by Ms. Silverthorne to replace the word "determine" with the word "monitor", insert the word "progress" after the word "possibilities" in the text of the Indian Education for All Committee. The revised committee description would read, "...representatives of the Montana American Indian community and others to explore and **monitor** the possibilities and **progress** for the presentation of curriculum..."

MOTION: Ms. Silverthorne moved to examine the language of the Indian Education for All Committee and to forward the final revision of the Indian Education for All Committee and other committee descriptions to the Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bishop and the motion unanimously carried.

Item 27 Rocky Mountain College

Dr. Linda Peterson, Dr. Jay Erdie, Dr. Lynette Zuroff, and Dr. Barbara Vail recommended approval of the Teacher Education Program at Rocky Mountain College.

The Board of Public Education granted provisional approval status on March 16, 2001, to the Rocky Mountain College Teacher Education Program, with the stipulation that a follow-up visit would occur. Two such visits were conducted in January 2002 and October 2002. After reviewing evidence and interviewing faculty, the Review Team (consisting of Jay Erdie, Ed.D., Chairperson Lynette Zuroff, Ed.D.; Jim Schladweiler, and Linda Vrooman Peterson, Ph.D.) recommended approval status for the Rocky Mountain College Teacher Education Program to State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to approve the accreditation of the Rocky Mountain College Teacher Education program. This motion was seconded by Ms. Silverthorne and the motion unanimously carried.

Item 28 Health Enhancement Revisions for Teacher Preparation

At the July 2002 board meeting, a document on Coordinated School Health was presented. The current presentation includes a brief report on the predominant response from the field to the original recommendations, the revised recommendations based on the input from the field, the response to the revised recommendations, and a request for the Board of Public Education action on the revised recommendations. This presentation also includes BPE action to accept the revised recommendation to insert wording into ARM 10.55.1003, to work toward achieving the “best practice” for improving the delivery of health enhancement instruction to Montana students.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to notice for hearing revisions to Rule 10.55.1003 Program Foundation Standards. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fuller and unanimously carried.

Item 29 Deficiency, Advice, Alternative Standard Report

Mr. McMillin presented the Alternative Standard Requests from Big Sandy and Billings. The Office of Public Instruction recommends approval for the Billings Alternative Standard Request and denial of the Big Sandy request, as recommended by the State Superintendent.

MOTION: Mr. Bishop moved to approve the Alternative Standard Request by Billings Public Schools and deny the Alternative Standard Request of the Big Sandy School District for guidance services. The motion was seconded by Ms. Myers and unanimously carried.

❖ Superintendent Linda McCulloch, who wasn't present on Thursday, November 14, 2002, wished to add a few items to her report, which was presented by Nancy Coopersmith. She passed around a picture album from the Yellow School Bus Tour. She also took this opportunity to welcome Mr. Spencer Sartorius as the Acting Deputy Superintendent. He will be sworn in as the Deputy Superintendent in June 2003. She also addressed the question on the CRT (Criterion Referenced Test) of whether or not to have testing done in grades 10 or 11. The predominant response was in favor of grade 10.

Item 30 MSDB Committee Meeting/Report

Mr. Steve Gettel and Mr. Bill Sykes presented an update on events that have transpired at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind since the last board meeting. These events include the following:

- ✓ **Spotlight on Programs-Referral, Evaluation and Admissions:**
- ✓ **Student Enrollment/Evaluation:** total on campus enrollment – 71, residential – 38, deaf – 46, visually impaired – 23; total off campus – 273, deaf – 76, visually impaired – 187, and parent advisor program – 10.
- ✓ **Personnel Actions:** new hire in Student Services, LPN, Colleen Preston; resignation in Education, Melissa Dixon, terminations in Education, Teacher Assistant Mitzi Jacques, and in Student Services, LPN, Colleen Preston.
- ✓ **Human Resource:** Labor Management Committees and Interest Based Problem Solving. Update on training activities, October 8-9, 2002.
- ✓ **Policies/Procedures:** a request was made to have this item taken up at the next meeting as an action item.
- ✓ **2003 Legislative Session:** update on status of proposals: statutory language changes approved by Education and Local Government Interim Committee 7/11/02. Update on

Program Expansion items.

- ✓ Program Accreditation: update on activities: began work on program reviews for CEASD and NAC, began development of five-year comprehensive educational plan to meet accreditation standard 10.55.601.
- ✓ Professional Development Activities: Signing Exact English Workshop (Great Falls), 9/28-9/29/2002. "Child Care Worker Certification Training", Northern Rockies AER Conference hosted by Montana, West Yellowstone, 10/16-10/18/2002. On-site observation at the CSD, Freemont, CA, 10/21-10/23/2002. JUMP-Standards-Based Classroom teacher workshop, Great Falls, 10/29/2002. "Implementing Positive Behavioral Supports", Great Falls, 11/8/-12/13/2002.
- ✓ MSDB Foundation Activities: Grants-Library Project completion, Grant Project Proposals, Infirmary Remodel, Vocational Classroom Remodel, Wall Coverings and Furniture for Bitterroot, Aspen, and Glacier. Annual Report, Finance-Audit Report.
- ✓ Conferences, Meetings and Contacts: 9/23-9/24/02-Fall Superintendents Conference, 10/7/02-Early Intervention Services, phone conference with Joe Matthews, DPHHS, 10/21/02-MSDB Foundation Quarterly Meeting, Great Falls, 11/7/02-MDHC quarterly meeting in Billings, 11/13/02-MAIDS quarterly meeting, Billings, 11/19/02-Legislator Forum, SAM-MSBA, Great Falls Public Schools, 12/19/02-Legislator Day at MSDB, 1/15-1/16/03-Capitol rally with MTAP, MAD and MSDB, 1/20/03-MSDB Foundation Annual Meeting.
- ✓ Budget and Finance: update – School Budget –are approximately 37% through the fiscal year and about 35% expended on total budget, foundation has \$10,000 in a contingency fund budget which has been used to pick up some items that have been critical, OBPP Proposed FY 04-05 Budget-Governor reduced operating budget by over \$100,000 in FY 04, and \$118,000 in FY 05, also assessed 4% vacancy savings against each program.

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to approve the grant application for "Learning Weekend for the Blind". The motion was seconded by Mr. Bishop and unanimously carried.

- ✓ Plant and Facilities: update of current projects- roof replacement (Aspen and Mustang Center), power burner (DNRC bonds), carpet and interior remodel (Long Range Building)-projects for grant consideration-infirmary remodel, vocational classroom remodel, summer extension programs, transition program.
- ✓ School Calendar: the calendar included the following upcoming and past events:
 - September 20-Travel Weekend
 - October 31-All School/Family Halloween Party
 - November 24-Formal Cottage Thanksgiving Dinner
 - December 7-Foundation Christmas Party
 - December 15-Formal Cottage Christmas Dinner
 - December 20-January 5-Christmas Vacation
 - January 22-End of Second Quarter

MOTION: Ms. Myers moved to approve the 2003-2004 school calendar for MSDB. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fladmo and unanimously carried.

- ✓ Student News and School Events: a half-day/Friday preschool-parent support program has been started with 2 students, "Great Falls Tribune" Teacher/Students of the Week-Sheryl Whitehead, Bradley Franke and Chase Stewart, Expressions of Silence Performances-December 6, 9, and 12 in Great Falls, Eight students are taking Drivers Education this semester with Jennifer Wasson.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Meeting was closed)

Session opened up at 4:00 p.m.

Item 31 Legal Affairs

MOTION: Mr. Fuller moved to approve the report of the Office of Public Instruction in the surrender of three certificates. The motion was seconded by Ms. Silverthorne and unanimously carried.

Item 33 BPE Positioning Strategy

Mr. Roger Merrill, who has a 30-year career in advertising and public relations, opened his presentation by giving an overview of his credentials. Mr. Merrill was invited by Mr. Meloy to present the idea that the board might want to assume more of a leadership position in the state of Montana. The four specific areas that Mr. Merrill felt should be addressed with a public relations campaign for the Board of Public Education are: **1.** Communications theme (major idea you present to the public), this theme should let the public know what role you play in Montana; **2.** Positioning Line of Concept (line that attaches to the title of your organization to give the public some insight into your organization), generally it is a slogan; **3.** External Alliance Port Program (possibly bringing the private sector into your “web”, in order to obtain backing for the idea and possibly funding; and **4.** Internal Program (when a company chooses to make an effort in the form of a public communication program). Mr. Merrill then walked the board through various examples of items that he had developed to deal with each of the above-mentioned areas. After a lengthy and involved discussion, it was agreed that the Executive Committee would work with Mr. Meloy on the Public Relations (Communications) Plan Campaign.

Mr. Merrill’s presentation led to further discussion of a position to be taken on school funding. It was decided to redraft the language discussed under Item #17 (5-Year Strategic Plan/Update) regarding Dr. Miller’s Position Paper and submit it to the Lieutenant Governor for his consideration. The Chair was given the responsibility for completing the language revision and submitting the Position Paper to the Lieutenant Governor.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEMS – January 9-10, 2003

- **2002-03 Accreditation Recommendations**
Al McMillin
- **MSDB Draft Policy Proposals**
- **Question of extending Student Representative term for two years**
- **Informal Teacher/Student Survey Report**
- **UGF Masters of Science in School Psychology**